

Money Smart Schedule

FEB 2019

6 & 7 MONEY \$MARTS
Dillingham Plaza
9 am - 1:30 pm
(must attend both sessions)

MARCH 2019

13 & 20 MONEY \$MARTS
Dillingham Plaza
9 am - 1:30 pm
(must attend both sessions)

APRIL 2019

6 & 13 MONEY \$MARTS
Kapolei Hale
9 am - 1:30 pm
(must attend both sessions)

To RSVP:
Call (808) 768-5727



HAWAII'S LARGEST CAREER FAIR
300+ EMPLOYERS

WORK FORCE
Career Fair

**WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 30, 2019**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Neal Blaisdell Center

Sponsors

General Admission \$3
Discounted Rate \$1
Students (w/ School ID), Seniors (55+), and Military (w/ Military ID)

To stay updated with the latest information, follow
HawaiiJobFairs on Facebook and Instagram or search #jobfairhi.

BANK OF HAWAII • HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH • PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD
AULANI, DISNEY RESORT & SPA • KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS • GROUND TRANSPORT INC.
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU • THE QUEENS HEALTH SYSTEMS • FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK • NA HOKU
ROBERTS HAWAII • FOUR SEASONS RESORTS HAWAII • HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION • AND MORE...

NEED HELP PAYING FOR PRESCHOOL?

PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS Application window: 1/2/19 - 3/29/19

Preschool Open Doors (POD) provides monthly preschool tuition subsidies to qualified families. Parents may choose any DHS-licensed preschool. Download application at www.patchhawaii.org

Applications accepted for children born August 1st 2014 - July 31st, 2015
for program participation July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

Return completed applications to: PATCH Preschool Open Doors
560 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite 218
Honolulu, HI 96817

Call POD Oahu (808) 791-2130
POD Toll-Free 1-800-746-5620
Email: PODAdmin@Patch-Hi.org

FSS NEWSLETTER

City & County of Honolulu • Department of Community Services • Section 8 Rental Assistance Branch •
Family Self-Sufficiency Program
<http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs/rentalassistance.htm>

2018
Volume 6



A New Season

Dear FSS Program,

As of August 2018, I will no longer be needing rental assistance. My spouse and I will be buying a home. We are so excited about this new season in our lives. I would like to thank you and the City & County so much for the help that I have received. If not for this program we would not have the opportunity of having our own place. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program really helped in guiding me to make good budgeting/ financial decisions. The things that I learned I can take with me to our new home and use them in my daily life.

The FSS Case Managers were always so easy to talk to, even when I was stressed out from work and wanting to quit, you did not let me forget my dreams and goals and reminded me to not give up. With the cost of rent being so high I could not have done it on my own. You guys are such great case workers and you really do care for your clients and want to help them do well in their lives.

Vickie, you were such a wonderful blessing to me and my family and I am so thankful to have gotten the opportunity for meeting you. Hope to see you again. Congratulations on your new home, so happy for you. Take care and God Bless!

Thank you,
Former FSS Family

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*The secret to
getting ahead is
getting started.*
~Mark Twain

Family Self-Sufficiency

City and County of Honolulu
Section 8 Rental Assistance
51 Merchant Street, 2nd Fl.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 768-7090

U'ilani Silva,
Coordinator
FSS Program
(808) 768-7093
usilva@honolulu.gov

Vickie Punua-McGinnis,
Coordinator
FSS Program
(808) 768-7089
vpunua@honolulu.gov

FREE Tax Preparation through VITA

Thanks to certified volunteers working across the State of Hawaii, you can have your federal and state tax returns prepared for **FREE**. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites generally become available at the end of January and run through April. Sites accept clients by appointment only.

Please check their website - www.hawaiiataxhelp.org for more information, including tax site locations.

A Rollercoaster of Faith

What has going through this process been like?

It's been a rollercoaster ride of fear, doubt and faith. To complete the FSS five year plan seemed so far away when I first started. Getting onto Section 8, I thought I was getting into a program that would just help me get our family of six out of a one bedroom unit. Everything changed when the FSS Program was offered to me. We were given an opportunity to achieve our dreams.

How has this program benefited you?

The program assisted me in providing a safe and comfortable home for my family, in completing my Bachelor degree in Education with an emphasis in Special Education and in creating a manageable budget. I was able to buy a brand new car, afford our household expenses, and start saving for homeownership.

Most people might think it's a minor thing but meeting new people and understanding what it means to have a budget and then sticking to it made a big difference for our family. Goals are achievable. This program has shown me how to reach those goals and make dreams a reality.

Is there anyone who helped you through this process you'd like to thank?

There is no one person, but a whole team of people that unknowingly gave me hope and a vision for my life....the FSS Case Managers, my Section 8 Examiners and the Inspectors. They didn't make me feel like I was below them. They genuinely care and did whatever they could to help my family so that we could achieve this quality of life we are experiencing now.



A Rollercoaster of Faith

What part of the FSS Program helped you the most?

There are two things. First, creating the goals with Ui helped me to gain confidence and plan for the future. Initially, the goals seemed impossible to reach but in the end, they were totally achievable through determination and my faith in God.

Secondly, receiving the escrow disbursement at the end of the program gave me an incredible sense of accomplishment. I had to work hard but the payoff was worth it.

How has your living situation changed from the beginning of the process until now?

So many things have changed! We were a family of 6 living in a 1-bedroom apartment in an old, run down building and after several moves we now live in a 3-bedroom 2-bath condo sufficient for us. Now that I have my eyes on homeownership I'm more selective about where we live and how it affects our ability to become a future homeowner.

My income has gone up at least 5 times since I started FSS. I went from being a full time student reliant on my husband's income to now being able to support my children on my own income as a single parent.

I recently accepted my second promotion at work and know that I may lose my Section 8 voucher soon because of it. However, if that happens, I know this means that FSS and Section 8 served this family well and empowered us to gain employment, be debt free, maintain financial freedom, prepare for homeownership and more. We're set up for success now.

What would you say to someone who is considering this program?

Don't think you can't reach the goals and dreams that God has put in your hearts. There are programs like FSS/ Section 8 to help you get there. You may be apprehensive and yes, it will take discipline and hard work on your part, but there are AMAZING people that will help you along the way.



Hawaii Community Foundation Scholarship 2019 - 2020

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/students>

Visit the website for details and FAQs regarding the application and award process.

Application Window: November 15, 2018 – January 31, 2019

Pauahi Keiki Scholars Scholarship 2019 - 2020

<https://apps.ksbe.edu/financialaid/preschool/pks/>

Pauahi Keiki Scholars (PKS) is a need-based scholarship for eligible keiki who are planning to attend a participating PKS preschool in Hawai'i. Application Window: November 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019